

From: U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration <dea@govdelivery.com>
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To: Khan, Annie (DPH)
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January 27, 2012

Top Stories from the DEA, January 13 to 27, 2012

Two More Defendants Sentenced in Florida's *Operation Oxy Alley*

On January 20, twin brothers Christopher and Jeffrey George were sentenced on charges stemming from *Operation Oxy Alley*, a coordinated investigation in Broward and Palm Beach Counties that targeted "pill mills" that distribute dangerous prescription drugs such as oxycodone. The two defendants operated, managed and financed four pain management clinics, and according to the indictment and statements made in court, these "pill mills" distributed approximately 20 million oxycodone pills and made more than \$40 million from the illegal sales of controlled substances.

These two defendants, along with 11 others, were as part of an indictment unsealed on August 23, 2010 in which 32 individuals were charged. At present, 28 of the 32 have pled guilty.

[Click Here to Read the DEA Press Release](#)

Letters Sent Ordering 23 Colorado Marijuana Dispensaries to Shut Down

On January 12 John Walsh, the U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, issued letters to 23 marijuana stores formally notifying them that action will be taken to seize their property if they do not discontinue the sale and/or distribution of marijuana within 45 days. Those who do not comply will be subject to potential criminal prosecution and civil enforcement actions by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado and the DEA. The 23 stores, located in various cities and towns in Colorado, are each within 1,000 feet of a school, with many even closer.

U.S. Attorney Walsh noted data that shows that since the opening of marijuana dispensaries in Colorado in 2010, many school districts have seen a dramatic increase in student abuse of marijuana, with growing numbers of students suspended and disciplined. These letters are just the first step that will be taken to address this issue, according to the US Attorney's Office.

[Click Here to Read the Letters](#)

[Click Here to Read the DEA Press Release](#)

New Prescription Drug Monitoring Program: NJ Takes Big Step to Reduce Drug Abuse

DEA applauds the addition of New Jersey to a growing number of states with Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP), a proven way to reduce the abuse of prescription drugs. In New Jersey the launch of their PDMP on January 18 is the first part of a three-phase process during which the NJPDMP will be further enhanced and expanded, culminating in May 2012. Today more than 43 states have authorized PDMPs, 34 of which are operational.

New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa noted that PDMP's are a powerful tool in the fight against the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs, and the often-heavy reimbursement costs of fraudulently-obtained prescription medication borne by health insurance companies, the government and ultimately taxpayers.

The NJPDMP, was established by state legislation, is maintained by the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, and has been collecting detailed data from 2,000 pharmacies statewide since September 1, 2011. In New Jersey, pharmacies provide data every 15 days on all prescription sales of drugs classified as Controlled Dangerous Substances or human growth hormones. The result will be a searchable database that includes detailed information on the sale of these high-risk drugs when they are dispensed in outpatient settings in New Jersey, or by out-of-state pharmacies dispensing into New Jersey.

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